## BIBELOTS.

The French Passion for Curiosities.

EXCITING SCENES AT THE HOTEL DROUOT.

Antique Pottery-Bernard Palissy and the Lady of Boissy.

PARIS, April 10, 1875. There is nothing, perhaps, which more surprises and mystifies the orginary class of American visitors to Paris than the manta for bibelots, or, as we should call them in English, "curiosities," without, however, attaching to them the full significance implied by the word, and they naturally ask themselves why articles apparently so useless should in a practical age like the present be disputed with an almost insane earnestness and pushed up to prices that would be fabulous were they not of daily occurrence. Many even of our compatriots, whose education and pursuits qualify m to understand and share the general enthuslasm for the chefs-d'œuvre of painting and sculpture, have not as yet arrived at a comprehension of this European furor for old pottery, glass, wood carvings, prints, miniatures, manuscripts and other time-worn relies.

ENTHUSIASM FOR THE ANTIQUE-WHY? These extravagant prices, this enthusiasm for musty debris, tals insanity of veneration for things not always beautiful in form or attractive in details, are due to two very distinct and different causes. One is the positive and natural interest which is attached to these souvenirs, and which results from the faithful picture which they present to us of distant ages; the other is the weakness, common to many minds, of resenting competition and of pushing beyond the bounds of reason the desire of acquisition. The first of these senuments explains itself by the spirit of research and analysis which distinguishes our epoch. We seek to reascend to the sources of all things. History is no longer a mere recital of national events. It aims at arriving at a correct idea of the characters of those who have taken a leading part in them and at tracing the causes, not merely of the political. but social revolutions which have marked each stage of progress or civilization. What vaster or more attractive field of investigation can, in fact, offer itself to our research than the precious trifles which exhibit to us an ancient people in their works and which reveal to us their habits and customs? The arts, taken in their general sense, are an exact expression of the life of communities. Therefore, this apparently futile study of the fragile works of a past age is in reality the study of progress; for by their aid we are enabled to reonstitute in our minds a state of society and an order of ideas far removed from our own. A small vase found in a tomb, a remnant of cloth or carpet or the carved handle of knue, tells us more of the condition of the arts at a particular epoch than all the writings and lectures of professing savans. What more eloquent dissertation, for instance, could have been presented to us on the vanity of our modern boastings than the statue exhibited on the Champs de Mars in 1867 (Exposition Universelle, section l'Egypte), representing King Schaffra, and dating 4,000 years previous to our own era? What more convincing evidence bould be adduced of the state of the arts at an epoch at which we scarcely placed the creation of the world, and which opens in these early ages a vast and almost entirely unexplored field of research? Is it not a sufficient justification of the eagerness with which the learned and curious compete at lighten their doubts, corroborate their theories or insure the triumph of their ideas ? Is not the history or ancient institutions or ancient arts as interesting as that of ancient wars? To the student and thinker it is infinitely more so, for it embraces the history of all classes, and, through the medium of their works and art creations, furmishes us with the means of correctly appreciating their progress.

THE CONGREGATION AT THE BOTEL DROUGT. In these facts is to be found the explanation of the main cause of the affluence of the crowds which cally attend the auction sales at the Botel Drougo: Those who may be termed "the privileged of mind" are also frequently the privileged of fortune, and can afford to satisfy their tastes at almost any price. It follows, as a matter of course, that all collections of value are sent to Paris for sale, that an army of agents and dealers are constantly employed exploring the Continent for bibelots and antiquities, and that there are but lew of the productions of past ages on which the attention of collectors is fixed of which samples are not to be found at the public sales or in the surjointy shops of the French capital. Let it not be assumed, however, that there is anything paculiar to our epoch in this passion. The rich in all ages have manifested the same desire to possess themselves of the relics of former times. The Roman Tases and marble statues of Greece, the carpets and rich stuffs of Asia, and, in the time of Augustos. Horace censured his compatriots for their extravagant tastes in regard to antiquities. It is marrated that Charles the Baid, son of Charlemagne, desirous of honoring in a special manner the monks of the Abbey of St. Denis, made them a present of a hansp, which, it was pretended, had belonged to Solomou. In short, if I desired to establish the fact by jurther historical examples, I could cite thousands, which prove the taste which existed in all ages for collections of this kind. THE COMPETITION OF PURCHASERS.

Let us now speak of the other influences to which this fever of competition is to be attributed. It is sufficient for any article to be rare to insure its being coveted, and those who and but little intrinsic value in an article esteemed by ansignarians will often set their hearts upon it precisely for the reason that it is desired by others. This opposition, of course, stimulates the innati-cism of collectors, and they are capable of any sort of folly when they find an article to which they attach either a real or sentimental value contested. Thus, between the bidder that knows and the bidder that expects to know. the worth of a vase or an antique gem, the struggie becomes so keen that it speedily degenerates into a question of amour propre, or of passionate resentment that nothing but the possessston of the disputed object can satisfy. There never, pernaps, was an occasion in which these antagonistic indusness were more broadly and amusingly developed than at the sale of the celebrated San Donato collection.

Among the carlosities most keenly contended

of an apple green tint, ornamented by a bust in relieve of Louis XV. Norther in form nor to exesotion did it appear to me very remarkable, and at the outside I should have estimated it as well run at 7,000 or 8,000 francs. The Marquis of Hertford and the Due of Callera Were competitors for t, and, as nobless oblige, they ran it up to 40,000 Yands, at which price it was knocked down to the former notieman. Another vase, also conseased for by the same bluders, was finally soludged to M. de Rothschild for 18,000 france. so dealer would have given more than 2,000 Fancy for it, to sell again in the hope of a recsonable profit, and twenty years ago it could have peen purchased for 500. But these prices pale in extravagance before that given by Lord Dudley or the minous he Rough Bevres service, which though no: complete, product the enormous sum of 255,000 traucs.

PROGRESS OF THE SALE.

Notwithstanding the frequent occurrence of facts of this kind, it would be an error to assume that the mere enprice of amateurs or a spirit of antisparian investigation exclusively directs the v gue taste for hitelots. The beauty of the designthe persection of the details, the richness of the materials employed and the difficulties overcome in the inbrication or the article, all concur tu ensancing its value and in placing it in the domain of oursessing. Thus, when at rate intervals a work

of Luca del Robbia maxes its appearance in a saleroom and it is eagerly run up in price. we should be in error were we to attribute the fact merely to fashionable taste or a passing caprice. No; in this instance the work is admirable in itself and has only to be examined to furnish at once an explanation of the high value that is attached to it. Del Robbia, the inventor of the relievos in terra cotta, was already a scuiptor of great talent, as is shown by the magnificent bas relies which decorate the organ of the Caurch of Santa Maria at Florence, when, finding in the slowness of execution which marble entails an obstacle to his artistic ardor, he conceived the idea of paking the models which he had prepared for his marble or bronge works, and thus he was led to the invention of his enamelled terra cotta relievos. It is needless to say that he brought to bear on these new compositions his great qualities as a sculptor. His figures are all simple; his attitudes nobie, and full of quiet dignity; his costumes elegant, and his color subdued. He is scarcely less to be admired in the material execution of his works. His coat of enamel is thin, delicate, and of a transparency of tone which reminds one at once of Perian marble and ivory. After his death his nephew Andrea and Andrea's four sons continued to execute works in the same style, but not of the same excellence. They preserved, it is true. Luca's secrets of manipulation, but their designs were interior in grace and purity, and they preferred amplitude of detail to simplicity. The difference in the estimate formed of their works by connoisseurs is, therefore, easy to be comprehended. In Luca del Robbia's the genius of the artist and the merit of invention extort our admiration, while in those of his kinsmen we find merely fide ity of imitation, without a spark of

BERNARD PALISSY. As I am writing on the subject of the plastic arts, I must not omit to notice the eagerness with which collectors hunt up every stray relic of Bernard Palissy, the humble potter, who, although he modestly styled himself "a worker in clay" and speat many years of his life in poverty and hardships, was not the less a great artist and protound thinker. To him geological science is largely indebted, for while he moulded the admirable works which constitute the pride and boast of the leading European museums at the present day, he was closely investigating the entrails of the earth and to his researches may be said to be due the first idea of the artesian well. It was only after sixteen years of the hardest labor and of unheard of difficulties that he succeeded in producing the beautiful works which obtained for him the title of "Inventeur des Rustiques Figuines du Roi," with a world-wide reputation and the tranquillity of mind induced by easy circumstances. It is therefore not surprising that collectors should exhibit a passionate eagerness to possess themselves of everything that issued from his hand, the more especially when we take into consideration the stimulus imparted to their taste by the admirable specimens of his creations which were exhibited recently at the Palais Législatif. Foremost among these was

THE FLAGON BELONGING TO M. DE ROTHSCHILD, and which is so marvellously modelled that it seems due rather to the chisel of Benvennto Cellini than to the mould of the humble potter. At that same exhibition was to be found the largest collection of specimens from the manufactory of Oiron that probably was ever before brought together. Who that had the good fortune to examine it can ever lorget the beautiful cup of Henri II., which excited such general admiration which was one of the chief objects of attraction in the collection? And yet the manufactory which produced it was for a long time ignored, which produced it was for a long time ignored, and is still unknown to many amateurs and collectors. It owed its creation to the intelligent caprice of a great lady and to the necessity in which she found herself placed of devoting her mind by occupation after the death of her husband. Heien d'Hengist, dame de Boissy, the lady in question, retired to her chateau of Ofron to indulge her grief, and with insettled determination to pass the remainder of her lite in solitude. She soon, however, found her time hang heavy on her hands; and, being a woman of taste as well as energy, she began to occupy herself with the internal as well as external embellishment of her residence. She ordered of her potter and an arrist a number of vises and other kinds of ornaments, the designs for which were suggested by herself. She even traced the models and superintended the manufacture of inese pieces, which all bear her cipher, or arms, and which she was in the habit of offering as presents to her friends. She displayed so much taste and elegance in her designs that the works produced from them rival in merit not merely those of Bernard Palissy, but the finest

OXEATIONS OF THE SAME KIND IN IVORY.

A cup belonging to Alme, de Rothechie, closely resembling that of Henry II., has for its principal ornament lizards, so naturally executed that they seem the first manifestation of the idea which pervades the "Figuilines Russiques." It is a marvel of patient execution and perfect taste in ornamentation, and is consequently regarded as a princely acquisition to which no ordinary fortune can as ire. Chance may, o course, again enable an amateur to discover another of these treasures in some humble residence, the owners of which are ignorant of its value, as in the case of the cup of rock crystal, which was jound in the tonse of a coal dealer, purchased for loca france and sold again for 25,000 irandes. and is still unknown to many amateurs and col-

more surprising in this toan in the

which are now being given for pictures that were

of a coal Gesier, purchased for loar fraces and sold again for 25,000 rangs. There is mothing more surprising in this tast in the Exchange precision of the formerly neglected or despised.

And in this connection I am reminided of the touching incident toud of Greuze, that limner or grace and beauty whose creations have not been excelled by any paliture of our day. While still a young man he and send of the first that the control of the touching incident toud of Greuze, that limner or grace and beauty whose creations have not been as positives had excited the first of the control of th

It was the same avord which was sold the other day by his heirs for 50.000.

A HINT TO AMERICAN TOURIST.

How is it, in presence of such lasts, that Americans visiting Paris and securing our pinces that are outlous or interesting, so seidom and their way to the Hungi Drouct? Nowhere, I can assure them, will they obtain so seedy and correct an insight into the mean and highly of the Freede begins. The story of their demestic lives is took in their intriduce and incontous cooking utensins; that of their intellectual condition in the Womerid ST and literary collections that are daily brought there under the hammer.

# FOREIGN THEATRICALS.

Another Successful French Drama.

"UN DRAME SOUS PHILIPPE II."

The Debut of Mile. Thalberg-Miss Ward.

PARIS, April 16, 1875. It is only a few weeks since I announced to you the dawn of a great dramatic reputation in the success achieved by the Vicomte de Bornier at the Theatre Français. His "Fille de Roland" continges to attract crowds whenever it is played, and the piece may now be said to have stood the test of repeated representation and the reaction which usually sets in after a surprise. There can be no question as to the character of M. de Bornier's success. It places him at once in the front rank of modern dramatic anthors, and he will have to labor hard to sustain the fame thus suddenly won. A NEW SENSATION.

Scarcely has the excitement produced by this

event almong theatre-goers cooled down a little then it has been revived by another similar piece of good fortune which has befaffen a writer still younger than M. de Bornier, and who, like him, suddenly finds himself famous. M. de Porto-Riche, the author of the "Drame sous Philippe II.," which had such an unqualified success on Wednesday last at the Odéon, is not more than twenty-four or twenty-five years of age, and was scarcely known, except as a poetaster and as the son of a millionnaire. It is to this latter met, I presume, that was due the unusual care that was lavished on the mounting of the piece and which rendered it one of the most historically exact as regards costumes and accessories that have been seen upon the stage of late years. Artists and decorators were sent to Spain to study the styles and fashions of the epoch, and an amount of expense was incurred which the pecuniary resources of the management would scarcely warrant. The piece was therefore brought out under every advantage so far as scenic effects were concerned, and as regards the cast there was but little to find muit with, the parts being all distributed with judgment with, percaps, a solitary exception. It is said-I know not with how much truth-toat the plot is based on a tragical episode which occurred in Mexico some twenty-five or forty years ago, and that it has been adapted to the time of Philippe II. in order that the author might be enabled to give fuller play to his fancy. In this transposition he has displayed an ingenuity and boidness which augur well for his continued success as a playwright, though it will expose him to the censure of sticklers for historical truth. The story, as he has constructed it, may be thus briefly told :- The heroine of the piece, Donna Carmen d'Alcala, is married to an old grandee, who might be her father and who is distinguished nothing but his loyalty to the Crown. He has a friend to whom he is very much attached, Don Miguel de la Cruz, and who falls in love with his wife. His passion is returned by Donna Carmen. but the lovers do not transcend the bounds of Platonic attachment. The King (Philippe II.), who has reached his forty-second year unscathed by the arrows of Cupid, suddenly takes it into his head to become enamored of the Duchess, and as he is not a monarch who easily allows nimself to he thwarted he cetermines to send the old buke, her husband, on a mission to the Duke of Alva, in her husband. On a mission to the Duke of Alva, in Flanders, from which, as it is iraught with peril, he is in nopes he may not return. Although unwilling to quit his young wife the Duke is too loyal a subject to taink of disputing the King's command, and he at once sets out on his journey, after placing Donna Carmen under the care of bon Miguel and making the latter swear that he will protect the honor of his house.

IN THE SECOND ACT

we find the lady tired of the Phatomism of the situation thus created for her, and which has already insted a couple of months. Don Miguel remains trace to the peadge which he had made to her husband, and resists all her seductions. At last, lear-

true to the piedge which he had made to her husband, and resists all her seductions. At last, learing that his resolution may sail, he determines to quit Madrid; out the Duchess, to defeat his purpose, has him appointed Captain of the Guards, where he is exposed to tempusitions of another kind, and finally enters into a conspiracy with the hamt Don Carlos in favor of Fiemiah interties. Donna Carmen continues to beset him with her solicitations, and, Ending that she cannot shake his resolution, threatens him that she will give herself to another. Don Miyuel, spocked and disgusted, saves himself by hight; the King enters and the curtain falls, leaving the rest to the imagnation of the spectators.

THE THIRD ACT shows us Carmen alive to all the horrors of the situation she has created for herself. She finds herself the mistress of a man whose cruel and lerocious coaracter inspires her with norror, and whom she can neither downers have whom she can neither dominate nor repulse. The conspiracy formed by Don Carlos with the Flemish nobles is discovered, the conspirators are arrested and Don Miguel, whom the Duchess tries to save, profers to die rather than to accept satery at the hands of a woman whom he now thoroughly dospisses. Donna Carmen is never-heless determined to save him from execution, and accordingly seeks the King to obtain his pardon. At the first appeal to his clemency the King's suspicions are aroused and motive and lealously, the appeals of his mistress and the torments of his self-esteem, his naturally cruel and revergeful tendencies and the softening influence of a woman's passionate pleadings. Putlipps offers us a striking picture of the struggles to which such minds are condemned and which betray them as times into the strangest inconsistencies. It is in this scene that the power of the dramatist is most felf. We recognize in it is not retain an accidentally happy conception, for each detail is treated with consummate skill, and the effect is arrived at gradually and without effort.

THE FINALE.

We now reach the denouement. No sconer has

treated with consummate skill, and the effect is arrived at gradually and without effort.

THE PINALE.

We now reach the denouement. No sconer has the king taken a solemn piedge to spare the die of Dou Miguel than he makes the discovery that Carmen loves him and that it is at the house of the Duckess that the conspirators hold their meetings. The king is, of course, furious, but ne cannot revenge aliaself. He loves Carmen too passionately to think of punishing her, and he has sworn on the Biole to spare the life of Dou Miguel. While the royal mind is that perplexed the Ducke d'Alcala saudenly returns from Flanders. The craity monarch finos in this event the solution of his embarrass sents. He insinuates into the mind of the old Duke doubts of the delity of his wife, and indicates his friend Don Miguel as the author of his disknoor. This gone hesigns the pardon of the latter and takesit himself to the Duchess. The royal mind is now trangul, and need no longer occupy itself with projects of vengeance; the husband will discnarge the task of the executioner. Accordingly, when the Duchess, bearing aloft the parchanent with the royal satial accords, results toward the place of execution from which the clash for the dead is already auditole, the inturnated Duke studenty controls her, and, shatching the pardon from her hand, tramples it under loot. Carmen valing tries to underlye bim and make him comprehend that king cell and femalined faithful to his pledge to him. The old grandee resules to listen to her, the "Miserers" swells into a curst of ismeotation, and Carmen learns from it that the head of nor lover has laken under the axe. Recovering the "Miserer" aweds into a ourst of immediation, and Carmen learns from it that the head of nor lover nas laisen their than the Asad of nor lover nas laisen their than the Duke's best and, after heaping bitter reprosones upon him for consigning to death a laithful friend and destroying her own happiness, and stabs hersell. While writing in her last agony the vinductive old nobleman stoops down and whispers in her ear, "Die in peace, Duchess of Alcaia, I have killed your lover." Carmen musters strength enough to raise hersell and point to the Eins, saying, "May lover! besided him!" and then expires.

AN EXCELENT EFFECT.

enough to raise herself and point to the Eins, saying, "May lover! behold him?" and then expires.

From this scant outline some idea may be formed or the striking and effective character of the statistions and of the repidity of the action generally. Add to this great character and the statistions and to repeat the statistions, and you find explained the causes of language and an easy, flowing style of versincation, and you find explained the causes of a success which has made or a more youth one of the promittent dramatists of the day.

The first representation of this place came off last hight at the change of the day.

The first representation of this place came off last hight at the change of the same have by M. Cherbunez, and which I believe has been from the well known rounnee of the same have been translated into forgian. It had a great success here, and its popularity induced M. Montigny to have it dramatized, in the expectation that the piece would have similar good fortune. It has oven effectively put upon the stage, but plays heavily. These attemps to dramatize episodes of foreign history or deplot foreign habits and manners upon the stage have never been very succession in France, except when pushed to the point of caricators. To me the piece played at the saile Ventucour by the illustian frouge received of a character to enlist the attention and interest of all classes. The high I was there every one seemed pleased their chorts and the appliance which greeted their clierts inroduce, it concluded that their season would have been a most successing one. The reverse has been a most successing one. The reverse has been the incl. Alter one performance interesting the played by native artists, covers too heariff, they will close their engagement. The

same ground for it to interest people here. The French are introspective to an extraordinary degree, and leei but little carlosity regarding the habits and usages of other countries. The world to them is bounded by the limits of their own teritory, and therefore it is that foreign artists or dramas drawn from foreign sources find so little layor in their eyes.

"UAFFAIRE COVERLEY"
is to be produced to-morrow night at the Ambigu. Under this title it would be difficult to recognize the Tichborne ariair. I cannot imagine what suggested the pseudonyme to the French adapter. He must have made acquaintance in his English studies with an old friend, Sir Roger de Coverley, and hence the idea of borrowing his patronyme. Coverley or Tichborne, it mattered but little to him provided he had a Sir Roger.

The successful début of Mile, Zaire Thatberg, at the Royal Italian Opera, London, on Saturday last, will give great satisfaction to her many iriends in America. I have never seen greater unnnimity of opinion among the crities than has seen manifested in her case. They all concur in describing her voice as pure, delightful in quality and highly cultivated. Of course, some degree of navor with which the young débutante was received was due to the popularity of her late gifted father, but there can be no mistake as to the highly inverable character of the impression which she made. Mile, Thaiberg is only soventeen years of age and is possessed of considerable personal attractions. She has always been wonder hearing her sing when she was only five years old, most of the airs in "Dinoran," all picked up by hearing them hummed by Mine, d'Angri.

Miss Genetivez ward.

MISS GENEVIEVE WARD.

I understand to the term is some probability of this gilled actress (known at your side as Mme. Guerrabella) returning to the United States at the close of the year, for a professional tour. She is now starring in the English towns, after a most successful London engagement.

### COULISSE CHAT.

Dublin is excited over the visit of Mr. Barry Sullivan to America. Tickets for his farewell per-

formance are being sold at auction. Miss Little Eidridge is now starring through New England, under the management of Wilton

& Mitchelt, and meeting with great success. Neuendorff boasts of having secured Mme. Peychka Leutner and Wachtel, with a superb German opera company, for the coming season. On dit that Mapleson's Italian opera company from Drury lane, London (Her Majesty's opera) will give a season at the Academy of Music next

Max Maretyek is still busily engaged at the work of manufacturing a school of American artists for Italian opera. He has been remarkably

successful so far. Tietjens and the rest of Mapleson's company will very probably appear at the Academy of Music in the fall, under J. C. Fryer's management,

Cohen furnishing the money.

Mile, Aimée closed last night at the Lyceum a very brilliant and successful engagement in opéra bouffe. She is looking, already, toward English opera and rivalry with Kellogg.

C. D. Hess is now the chief representative of English opera in this country. After organizing the Parepa company he formed the Kellogg troupe, and likely he will join hands with Carl Rosa next season. Gustav Satter, the celebrated composer and

planist, has arrived in our city. He has written a grand symphonic work, "Washington," in six parts, and intended for the Centennial. We shall be glad to hear it, and the composer has all our sympathies.

Miss Netison on the conclusion of her engagement

at Booth's will take a long rest. It is her intention to retire from the stage for eighteen months or two years. It is possible that she will appear in "Much Ado About Nothing" before the close of her present engagement. Daiy contemplates taking the town by storm with combination Wednesday matinées, in which

comedy and opera shall be the chief attractions. In the meanwhile the "Big Bonanza" grows in popular favor, and promises to be a real placer for the Finh Avenue manager. P. S. Glimore is transforming the Hippodrome into a scene such as the Arabian Nights might

furnish. A summer garden, a miniature picture of the ramble in the Park and a magnificent milltary band of 100 virtuosi-such are the principal elements of success in this new colossal enter-

On Thursday night, during the performance of Amy Robsert, Miss Nellson was taken suddenly ili and Miss Vernon was obliged to replace her in the final scene. For several hours Miss Neilson remained unconscious. Notwithstanding the prohibition of her medical advisers she reappeared on Friday evening. An alternative bull will be furnished next Satur-

day evening, at the Lyceum Theatre, on the occasion of a benefit to be offered to Mile. Bertha Girardin. The istr handiclare will appear in three charming French comedies, and will be supported by Messrs. Heniel. Stuart, Inignet, Genot and Gerond. The pieces selected for representation are Barrière's "Le feu au Couvent," "La Petite Consin," by the same author, and Edmond Goudinet's one act comedy, "La Cravate Bianche."

Mme. Ristori will begin her farewell series of performances at the Lyceum on to-morrow evening in "Renata di Francia," a play founded on the story of the Huguenots. This grand historical drama was written by Giacommetti specialty for Ristori's farewell tour. The new series of performances are positively the last that will be given in New York by Mme. Ristori, and no one who takes an interest in dra matic art should neglect seeing the great artist, who is so soon to disappear from our sight prob ably for ever. The past week has been prolific in the concert

line. The approach of May day brings out local musical talent to an illimitable degree. Mr. George Sweet gave his sarowell concert at Steinway Ha a few days since, and the public will sorely miss such a promising baritone singer. Miss Borie, a charming soprano, drew an immense house to the Union League Theatre on Thursday, and her assistants, Mme. De Rythor, a genuine favorite mezzo soprano vocalist, and Mr. Pattison, the representative planist in this city, were the cale artists on the occasion. Mr. Leon Bertholet has had a magnificant concert at Irving Hall, in which the renowned tenor made a genuine artistic suc-

The present Sultan of Turker is displaying a turn for music, which is something new for the Grand Turk, whose proclivities in that direction among his predecessors has not been noteworthy. It is said that, following the example of his neighbor, the Khedive, he intends establishing both French and Italian opera in Constantinople. Be that as it may, the Sultan recently sent an order, through the chief of his nousehold, to Mesers. Steinway & Sons, requesting them to forward at once one of their best concert grand planes to Constantinople for the Sultan's private use, which instrument is now awaiting shipment by a vessel direct for its destination. His Majesty is said to be, now truly we know not, a fair performer. Wonders will never coase.

AMERICAN ART IN ITALIAN OPERA.

NEW YORE, May 1, 1875. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:-

On Wednesday evoning last a young American orima donna, Mile, Gafrafilia Monaibi, a pupil for many years of the distinguished professors di-cento, Signor San Qiovanni, of Milan, and M. Ronzi, of Paris, appeared as Elvira, in the opera of "Ernaul." I wan to call attention to the folowing facts:-At the time Mile. Monalet appeared lowing facts:—At the time Mile. Monalet appeared she was suffering asverely from an attack of introngiths, which, as all digitians know, tends to ferrier a singer incapable of making any vocal success. She had been suffering for several weeks from this complaint. Against the positive series of her pursician, Dr. Fullyraff, she hang last week, unwiting to disappoint the public a second time. Mor throat was so inflamed on Wednesday evening that it was a mirecie how she managed to sing at all. Mile. Mohabl, who has gained from the most eminent processor of music the highest encomiums, purposes to appear in another operation of the season closes, and will dear, in plana moor, show that American talent in operation at all significant saying. \*

Colonel Chapman has placed on exhibition at the Murts Gallery the remaining pictures belonging to his collection, and among them are many very excellent works from the easels of American artists. Charch, While Wilsoner, Gur de Hans and Beaufran irving are idpresented. There was no room to using these motures in the last sale. Tast will be soin without reserve un next Wednesday evanium.

# THE POLITICIANS' AGONY OVER.

The Appointment of the New Commissioners by the Mayor.

#### A UNANIMOUS APPROVAL.

The meeting of the Board of Aldermen specially held yesterday to receive the Mayor's nominations of commissioners to fill the vacancies occasioner by the expiration of the terms of several commissioners, which occurred at noon yesterday, was a even ex-Mayor Vance being on oand bright and early, and there was a very large assemblage of the short-naired democracy in the lobby. The routine business was given the go-by easily. The reading of the minutes was easily dispensed with on motion of a republican Alderman, and the momentous question as to whether the Tribune or some other new building should have the honor of sheltering the Corporation Counsel and his books of reference from wind and storm for five years to come was a comparatively small one.

were made seriatim, and, as the complete list was given in the HERALD in the morning and had been fully canvassed before the meeting, no one tried to look amazed. The nominations were made out according to "section 25, chapter 335, Laws of 1875," the Mayor's letter to the Aldermen conveying the nominatious reading pretty much the same in each instance, except where a slight change of phraseology was required by the law. First came the successor of Severn D. Moulton as Tax Commissioner in the person of John N. Hayward, for the confirmation of whose nomination Alderman McCartny made a formal motion. Then came the nomination of Joseph J. O'Donohue as Park Commissioner in place of Thomas E. Stewart, Alderman Guntzer moving the nomination; that of
William F. Smith as Police Commissioner in place
Abram S. Duryee, moved by Alderman Lysaght;
that of Vincent C. King as Fire Commissioner in place of Cornelius Van Cott,
moved by Alderman Spandiey; that of
Henry F. Dimock as Dock Commissioner in
place of William Budd, moved by Alderman Seery;
that of Edward G. Janeway, as Health Commissioner, in place of Stephen Smith, moved by Alderman Purroy, and that of Townsend Cox, as
Commissioner of Charities and Correction, to succeed himselt, by Alderman Cole. Everything
worked admirably, and not an alderman lost his
cue. The entire twenty-two voted in favor of the
nominations. This was certainly
A SURPHISE TO THE UNINITIATED.
but it was nothing to the amazement into which
everybody was thrown by the open endorsement
of the democratic Mayor by the republicans, who,
by a little sharp practice—by being first in the
field—tried to take the wing out of the sails of
their democratic colleagues. It was Alderman
Howland (republican) who opened the bail. He
said, once all the nominations had been confirmed,
rising in his place:

"Mr. President, I have been very much gratified

"Mr. President, I have been very much gratified nomination of Joseph J. O'Donohue as Park Com-

Howland (republican) who opened the bail. He said, once all the nominations had been confirmed, rising in his place;—
"Mr. President, I have been very much gratified with the nominations sent in to this Board by His Honor the Mayor, and which have just been confirmed. I move, sir, that the thanks of the Board be tendered to him for the unexceptional character of the nominations which he has made."
Alderman Deaz, regulations, said;—"I cannot allow this occasion to pass without saying a lew words in seconding, as I do, the motion of my colleague. The names of the gentlemen nominated to this Board are the names of gentlemen of high character, all well known to this community, and the nominations, in my opinion, are an earnest of the determination of the Mayor to do all that less in his power to give us

A GOOD CITY GOVERNMENT."

Alderman Purroy, democrat, said:—"it gives the democratic members of this Board great pleasure to see the gentlemen on the other side of the house of one mind as to these nominations. The Mayor has done well in these appointments, and I feel assured that his one object in making them was the welfare of the city government. It will doubtless be very gratifying to him to know that his nominations have met with such a unanimous approval."

And with this pleasant talk the question of the nominations was dropped in the Board, and the Aldermen adjourned to the Mayor's omce, where they congratulated nim individually on the nominations, and he thanked them cordially for their support.

support.

SKETCHES OF THE COMMISSIONERS. GENERAL "BALDY" SMITH.

William Farran Smith was born at St. Albans, Vt., February 17, 1824, and is consequently a little over flity-one years of age. He was entered at the Military Academy of West Point as a cadet in 1841. He graduated fourth in 1845, in the same class with General Fitz John Porter and General Gordon Granger, President Grant being a cadet in the Academy at the time. After graduating he was assigned to the Topographical Engineers, a branch of the service in those days considered the highest in the army. From November 6, 1846, to August 21, 1848, he was Assistant Professor of Mathematics at the Academy, and was at different times engaged in the surveys of the Lake Superior region, of the Rio Grande, Texas, on the military road to California, and in the Mexican Boundary no mean importance then in the regular army, and was acting as the secretary of the Lighthouse Board at Washington. He obtained a leave of absence and took command of the Third Vermont Volunteers, and on August 13, 1861, was appointed a brigadier general. He was in General William B. Franklin's corps of the army of the Potomse and was in command of a division of it when Franklin was detailed from McDowell and joined McCiellan on the peniusula. In the Chicks nominy campaign General Smith greatly distinguished himself, and on the recommendation of General McClellan was promoted to major general of volunteers, his commission dating from July 4. 1802. He participated in the battle of Antietam in September of that year, and was in command of the Sixth corps in Burnside's upsuccess:ul attack on Fredericksburg. He was some time afterward transferred to General Grant's department, then under General Rosecrans, with sueral Hooker, and became quite prominent as a staff officer of General Grant. In 1867 General Smith resigned his commission as major general

General Hooker, and became quite prominent as a staff officer of General Grant. In 1867 General Smith resigned his commission as major general of the regular army, and since that time has been a resident of this city. He is now President of the International Cancer relegant Company.

John N. Hayward is a member of the General Committee of Tammany Had and an out and out democrat. He is a man of means, and was at one time a Commissioner of Education, serving for four successive years. Mr. Hayward has hever been prominent in politics, but has a swaps been an active worker in the barry.

Vincent C. King is a resident of the Seventh Assembly district, and mithough he is not a professional politician he has been known as an active man in democratic political circles for many years past. He is a native of this city and is about forty three years of age. In 1891 and 1962 he was a Commissioner of Appeals in the Volunteer Fire Pepartment, to whice position, under the rules of the department them, no one could be elected which has not been previously an exempt member for at least three years. Mr. King, besides, is a practical freeman, as he served long enough in the old acpartment to reach a following enough in the old acpartment to reach a following mough in the old acpartment to reach a following mough in the old acpartment to reach a following man at a count thrity-lour years of age. He was born in South Coveniny, Coom. He grandated at Yise College in 1893, studied law as harvard and some time afterward was admitted to the bar from the office of Abrain H. Lawrence, now a justice of the Supreme court. He practiced law for several years successfully, but in 1809 he absundered the awyer's profession and accepted the position of Agent of the Methodological Mourtment was over the head and trout of our streaming but he secondation a steamant Commission of the merchants who are the head and trout of our steaming but he would be secondated at the position of Agent of the Methodologic has seen for several years successfully ano

and has been for years one of the four honorary members of the Board of Health.

and has been for years one of the four belorary members of the Board of Health.

Townsend Cox, the re-appearance Commissioner of Charities and Correction, is a banker and a member of the Iran of Keames & Cox, Exemange place. He was born in Coster Bay rownsing in legs. He is well khown in Wall street, and was at one time President of the Gold Exchange. He is a oved in the-wool democrat, and though not of the 'howini'? class, who are always parading their democracy in and out of place, has ever teen known as a 'constant contributor' to the treasury. Mr. Cox comes of a tall lamily. He is six feet bear inches in height, and his tallness, so to speak, is a mainty lafting. His greatgrandiather, named Coles, was selzed upon by the Cow Boys on Long Island one evering ouring the Revolution, was put a rope about his neck which they three over the top of his agif doorway and then when the old man's hearl had 'touched the earn' befitted the fope. At saurise the next dey the high strung old patriot was found alive and kicking, snaps because while his bead was at the asymmet because of the door his feet four ched the ground. The Commissioner and all brionging to min have ever since considered it their bounded the ground. The Commissioner and all brionging to min have ever since considered it their bounded duty to stretca themselves out so as not to hall bealind the stature of their ancestors. Hence, doubtless, Townsend Cox's six feet four inches.

Joseph J. O'Donohue is a member of the old teafrim of Joan O'Donohue is a member of the old teafrim of Joan O'Donohue is a member of the sold teafrim of Joan O'Donohue, he had a century in Front street, New York. He is a native of this city, and was born in 1834. He was a promisent member of the Committee of Seventy, and was prominently mentioned as a candidats for Mayor at the time Mr. Havemeyer was effected. He is connected with various Cathone cheme associations in this city, among others the Young Men's Roman Cathone Association. He is very wealtry, having amassed a large fortu

lowed full sway in the Police Board.

# BROOKLYN COMMISSION APPOINT

The commission situation—that is, the attitude of the Mayor and Common Connell toward each other in the matter of the appointment of patriots to fill the vacancies-is akin to the laborers' strike; the men are still out. The Mayor says he is in favor of appointing none other than democrais, but the latter he would fain have unknown to politics. The party managers do not concar for any such arrangement, and will have none but men who can hande the ribbons in the autumn races for power. The only question men who can handle the ribbons in the authmoraces for power. The only question is, Will the Executive come to terms, or will the managers assume that an expediency has arisen which calls for their acquiescence to the will of the Mayor? The only state decided upon amicably is said to be that of the Police and Excise Commissioners, which appoints General Slowin President of the Board and John Pyburn and B. D. Briggs Commissioners. The names of all the Commissioners will be sent in to the Aldermen on Monday for approval.

#### THE QUARANTINE COMMISSIONERS.

The usual diurnal sessions of the Quarantine Commissioners, from May I to November 1, began yesterday. The Commissioners are W. L. B. Stears, D.W. Judd and General James McQuade, For the first time in the history of our State the quarantine arrangements in New York haroor are persect. The Commissioners, who are the custodians of the State property in the bay, valued at \$2.000,000, will note daily sessions for the next six months. At the meeting yesterday nothing of any general interest occurred.

#### TAMMANY HALL.

The Tammany Committee on Organization met in the Wigwam yesterday afternoon at four o'clock. Its session was short and its work not important. Some of the Assembly District subcommittees reported the names of persons for appointment as enumerators of the census which is
about to be taken. The list of enumerators is now
complete, and will be despatched to the Secretary
of State on alonday for ratification by that official.
The work of taking the census of the State, in accordance with the provision of the new constitution, is to be begun on the 1st of June.

## CENTENNIAL JOTTINGS.

WHAT IS BEING DONE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY IN AID OF THE CENTENNIAL.

Ex-Governor Bigler reports that the subscriptions to the Centennial fund are coming is rapidly from all parts of the country. In a 10 % days, he says, he will give to the public the sub-scriptions made in Connecticut and California, amounting to very respectable sums. There is no doubt now that both States will complete their quota of contribution. A good many small subscriptions are also reported, showing that the masses are beginning to take a more than evanescent interest in the celebration. In Philadelphia the number of Centennial medals sold has been something enormous. There, of course, the Ceutennial sentiment is very different to that in New its all-absorbing topic of conversation-that the coming Centennial celebration is to the Quaker City. Whose is the best, the most wholesome; Can there be a doubt as to the reply to this ques TONIS AT THE CENTENNIAL.

In a recent issue of this journal it was stated that Egypt would probably take part in the Phila-delphia World's Fair. Mr. Gosnora has received a that Egypt would probably take part in the Philadelphia world's Fair. Mr. Goshorn has received a
letter from Tunis indicating that the Barbary State
will also be represented at the Centennial. The
letter says:—'my order of the Bey a meeting of
the principal manuscuturers and merchants of
Tunis was beld yesterday under the presidency of
the Eminence, General Hensseln, Minister of Publio Instruction and Works, to agree upon the
measures to be taken in regard to the international Expidition at Panadelphia in 1976, and te
prepare and procure the articles to be sent
or exhibition. General Hensseln has requested the Director General to reserve
about 200 square yards of space for Tunis in a suitmote locality. He supposes toat the Tunisian section will be located construints to or in the vicinity
of Turker, Egypt, Persia, Morocco, &c. He will
smortly address the Birector General to the subject. The Tunisian contribution to the Exhibition
will consist principally of woollon and surent disues, costumes, carpets, embroderies, incluture,
afrans, bottary, saddiery, &c. The Bey's frime
minister, General Keredine, has assured me toat
nothing will be spared to make the Tunisian section as attractive and into-esting as it was at
Loudon, Paris or Vicina, and General Heussels
hopes it will excest them."

It has already been haned that the medals
would be used by Vestern schools as prizes, to be
competed for by Dopis. It now appears that the
St. Louis school authorities may utilized the
espening level." to and the Centennial sed
for receive Centennial Bedans shalt testimonials of
honor in proposition to excendence. The same time
of excreties ones over augusted by Professor J. L.
Tracy, Segretary of the Massouri Centennial sort,
for an the schools throughout the country, to take
place at such time as may suit their convenience,
and we learn that tony are responding from
every direction, saxing for the list of world and
ordering modals and certimonials.

A CENTRIAN and proposed to the country, to take
place at such letter from Tunis indicating that the Barbary State

hework, and are intended to accommodate about 125 persons.

IN ILLINOIS
the Centennial movement has assumed quite a definite shape. The recont address to the citizens of Chicago asking them to subscribe to the Centennial Stock was signed by form well-known hames as those of roter Paimer, W. F. Coolbangh, C. B. Parwell, C. H. McCornick, George Armour, Gustavas Koerner, and officially libers occurs this significant passage:—"If from the nard hand of adverse late, so neerly bestowed on our city of Chicago the past our years, we do these calculations, hives hand increal, in and of this great family gathering and junies, we can jet show our readiness and good will by joining bear and amad in it and by tendering our mire coward securing its perroci success. Survey three mindens of limousans will see that the pride and money of their State is upueld in this great Manional Exhibition, has great Peace Congress of the Rations of the earth."